

**Kentucky  
Agriculture  
Heritage Center  
Newsletter**

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Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center



## **Annual Dinner: Agriculture Heritage Week**

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The KAHC Annual Board Dinner held on November 17 at Anderson Circle Farm, once again showcased the important role agriculture has played and continues to play in the daily life of all Kentuckians.

At the dinner Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy presented Margaret Lane with a proclamation signed by Governor Steve Beshear recognizing November 16-22, 2009 as Agriculture Heritage Week in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

"I urge all Kentuckians to reconnect with the Commonwealth's agriculture

roots and salute Kentucky farmers for their continued contributions to this important industry," said Gov. Beshear in a release announcing the proclamation. "It is important for current and future generations to understand the impact agriculture has and will continue to have on their lives."

Thomas emphasized the important role agriculture plays in Kentucky's economy, and encouraged all to join with the Governor to celebrate Kentucky's agricultural heritage and agricultural future,

Also during the dinner Ann Evans, the Executive Director of the Kentucky



*Roger Thomas presents Margaret Lane with the proclamation signed by the governor.*

Governor's Mansion gave a presentation on going green at the Governor's Mansion. Evans praised the KAHC Board for the green design for the Center and shared with the attendees the agriculture focused initiatives at the Mansion including the Governor's Garden and the Governor and First Lady's support of Kentucky Proud.

The annual dinner is a time for the KAHC

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### **KAHC Mission Statement**

The Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center is to create an environment for learning, reflecting on the past, showcasing the present, and fostering the advancement of Kentucky agriculture.

## Executive Director **Virginia Flanagan**

**T**he following text is from the project overview given at our Annual Meeting last month. I wanted to share it with you too. I think you will find in reading it that the KAHC project is progressing well.

You really can't tell by looking but the past 12 months have been very busy for the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center project.

We have erected a wind tower on site to gather wind data and it is being analyzed by Belcan's Engineering Sustainable Design Division and Dovetail Wind Corporation. With hard data, our engineers have determined that we can produce all of our energy needs through wind,

solar and geothermal.

We have had geothermal testing done by a Kentucky firm. The building itself is so sufficiently designed that Belcan is developing the Building Intelligence system to operate it.

Our business plan developed by internationally prominent PGAV, who has worked with Biltmore, Williamsburg, Disney World and Bass Pro Shop, tells us that within a 75 mile radius of the Center are ½ million school children and an additional 2.3 million possible visitors. Engineers and consultants say this project will gain world wide attention.

We are gathering histories and farm stories for a

definitive Kentucky Agriculture history display.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack visited Anderson Circle Farm this past summer and we were able to make a brief presentation to him about the Center of which he was very complimentary and interested.

We have been able to bring together an impressive group of leaders from agri-business, energy and industry to form the KAHC Leadership Council for the soon to be announced Capital Campaign.

Today there is not a lot to see on the site, but in order to build a facility and develop an educational, research, and



*I hope all have a very wonderful New Year*

visitors program that will be sustainable, the KAHC board is carefully planning to produce a facility and program that will have national prominence and of which all Kentuckians can be proud.

I hope all have a very wonderful New Year.



## **Annual Banquet cont...**

Board to recognize state and local leaders for their dedication and support to the Center. This year three individuals Senator Joey Pendleton; Phillip McCoun, President of Ky Corn Growers Association; and John Trisler, former Mercer County Judge Executive all received a special award for their

commitment and continued support for the creation of the Center

A special presentation was made by the Harrodsburg Mercer County Industrial Authority to the KAHC Board. Phil Crump and Pete Chiericozzi, Harrodsburg Mercer County Industrial Authority presented a check representing a

\$50,000 pledge to the Center.

“The annual dinner is a chance for us to share with our Board and supporters the progress that has been made toward the development of the Center,” said Virginia Flanagan, KAHC Executive Director. “It is also a time for us to thank all those that have given of their time,



*Ann Evans talked about how the Governor's chefs use Kentucky Proud products in meals served at the mansion.*

money, and talents to make this dream a reality.”

## Board Spotlight

# Oran Little

Oran Little is quick to point out that he might have been born in a small community in south central Texas, but he became Kentuckian by choice.

Little accepted a teaching position at the University of Kentucky College of Ag in the 1960's. As an animal sciences faculty member at UK, Little developed a ground breaking research technique that led to a much improved understanding of how cattle digest different feed components.

In 1969, Little became the College's associate dean for research and then in 1988 he accepted the position as the Dean of

the College of Agriculture which he held until his retirement.

"Throughout my years at UK I would hear people talk about the need to do an agriculture museum," said Little. "It all really began to come together around 2003 when the house passed the resolution to do a feasibility study for the museum."

In the spring of 2005, Little was working on an oral history of his 40 years at the College of Ag, when he was asked to take part in a group to discuss establishing an ag history center.

"There was kind of an undercurrent at that time



*Dean Little speaking at the annual dinner.*

with the feasibility study completed to make this happen," said Little. "I accepted a position on the Board and have been working with the project ever since."

For Little the most exciting aspects of Center is that it will combine education with history to offer much more than a venue to tell the Kentucky ag story, but also to provide a foundation for its future.



*Virginia Flanagan, KAHC; Mark Haney, Chairman of the KAHC funding committee; Phil Crump and Pete Chiericozzi, Harrodsburg Mercer County Industrial Authority; & Margaret Lane, KAHC Chairperson.*

## KAHC Annual Dinner 2009



*Senator Joey Pendleton; Phillip McCoun, President of Ky Corn Growers Association; and John Trisler, former Mercer Co. Judge Executive.*



*At the KAHC dinner old friends and new enjoy sharing ideas.*



## KAHC Board

Chairperson  
Margaret Lane

Vice Chairperson  
Sam Moore

Secretary / Treasurer  
Dr. Oran Little

Alice Baesler

Dennis Cannon

Lewis Furnish

Mark Haney

Merion Haskins

Libby Jones

Sam Lawson

Hilda Legg

Loretta Lyons

George Martin

Lois Mateus

Jim Naive

Roger Quarles

Dawn Riley

Billy Ray Smith

David Sparrow

**SAVE THE DATE**

**KAHC Winter Board Meeting**

**Feb. 17, 2010**

# ***Agriculture Heritage Week Proclamation***



***To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:***

WHEREAS, Kentucky's history has deep roots in the agrarian way of life; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture embodies timeless values and preserves a beloved way of life; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture is an important part of Kentucky's economy; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's agriculture industry provides jobs for both rural and urban communities; and

WHEREAS, It is important for current and future generations to understand the impact agriculture has and will continue to have on their lives; and

WHEREAS, It is important to celebrate the agriculture heritage of our ancestors, as we work toward the future of Kentucky agriculture for the next generation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim November 16-22, 2009, as

## ***Agriculture Heritage Week***

in Kentucky, and call upon all Kentuckians to join me in celebrating the week by reconnecting with our agricultural roots.

*Newsletter designed by Keeton Communications*

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Agriculture  
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Virginia Flanagan**

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**Visit us on the  
Web at  
[kyagheritage.org](http://kyagheritage.org)**

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